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ecology and environment, inc.

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International Specialists in the Environment

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Alan Altur, U.S. EPA
FROM: Mark Dunnigan, FIT *MD*
DATE: October 30, 1991
SUBJECT: 103rd Street Transfer Station Site, Chicago, Illinois
ILD020038089/F05-9104-002/FILO431PA

The 103rd Street Transfer Station (103rd Street) site is located approximately 1 mile north of Lake Calumet in an industrial area in southeast Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The site is bordered on the north by 103rd Street, on the east by Interstate 94, on the west by an open field, and on the south by a city of Chicago impoundment and an area where the Greater Chicago Water Reclamation District dumps sludge.

The Calumet Incinerator operated at the site from 1959 to 1979. Operations consisted of burning general household refuse and transferring the ash to off-site landfills. Approximately 200 tons of refuse per year was incinerated using an old batch heat incinerator. The incinerator was closed in 1979 by the city of Chicago because air quality standards could not be met.

From 1980 to 1985, the site was used as a receiving station for Chicago municipal garbage trucks. Refuse was weighed and dumped onto a concrete area inside the Calumet Incinerator building. The waste was then transported to off-site landfills in semitrailer trucks. All refuse was removed from the site by the end of each day of operation; no wastes were deposited at the site. The only waste handled at the site was general household refuse. No hazardous wastes are known to have been accepted. In 1985, the station received approximately 125 to 150



truckloads per day, resulting in the handling of approximately 159,315 tons of refuse that year.

From 1988 to 1990, the city of Chicago operated a pilot composting facility on the site. Vegetative wastes were composted during this time.

Currently, the city of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation operates the site as a warehouse and parking lot for various vehicles and trailers.

On June 18, 1991, Ecology and Environment, Inc., Field Investigation Team (FIT) conducted an off-site reconnaissance inspection of the 103rd Street site. No evidence of hazardous waste was observed. FIT observed a small pile of refuse that appeared to be vegetative wastes and construction materials in the northwest corner of the site.

The geology of the Lake Calumet area is characterized by 40 to 175 feet of unconsolidated Quaternary material (lacustrine silts, clays, and some sands and gravel) underlain by 300 to 625 feet of Ordovician Dolomite. However, because of the presence of the Chicago Water Department and the generally poor quality and quantity of shallow groundwater, there are no private wells used for drinking water within a 4-mile radius of the site.

Because no hazardous wastes were observed or are believed to be on-site, there is no suspected release of hazardous substances to surface water. A drainage ditch adjacent to the west side of the site flows directly into Lake Calumet, which is located approximately 1 mile south of the site.

There are no residences, day-care centers, or schools within 200 feet of the site. Furthermore, there was no evidence of odors or a release of hazardous substances emanating from the site during the off-site reconnaissance inspection. File information also indicates that a potential for release of hazardous materials to air does not exist.